

FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED



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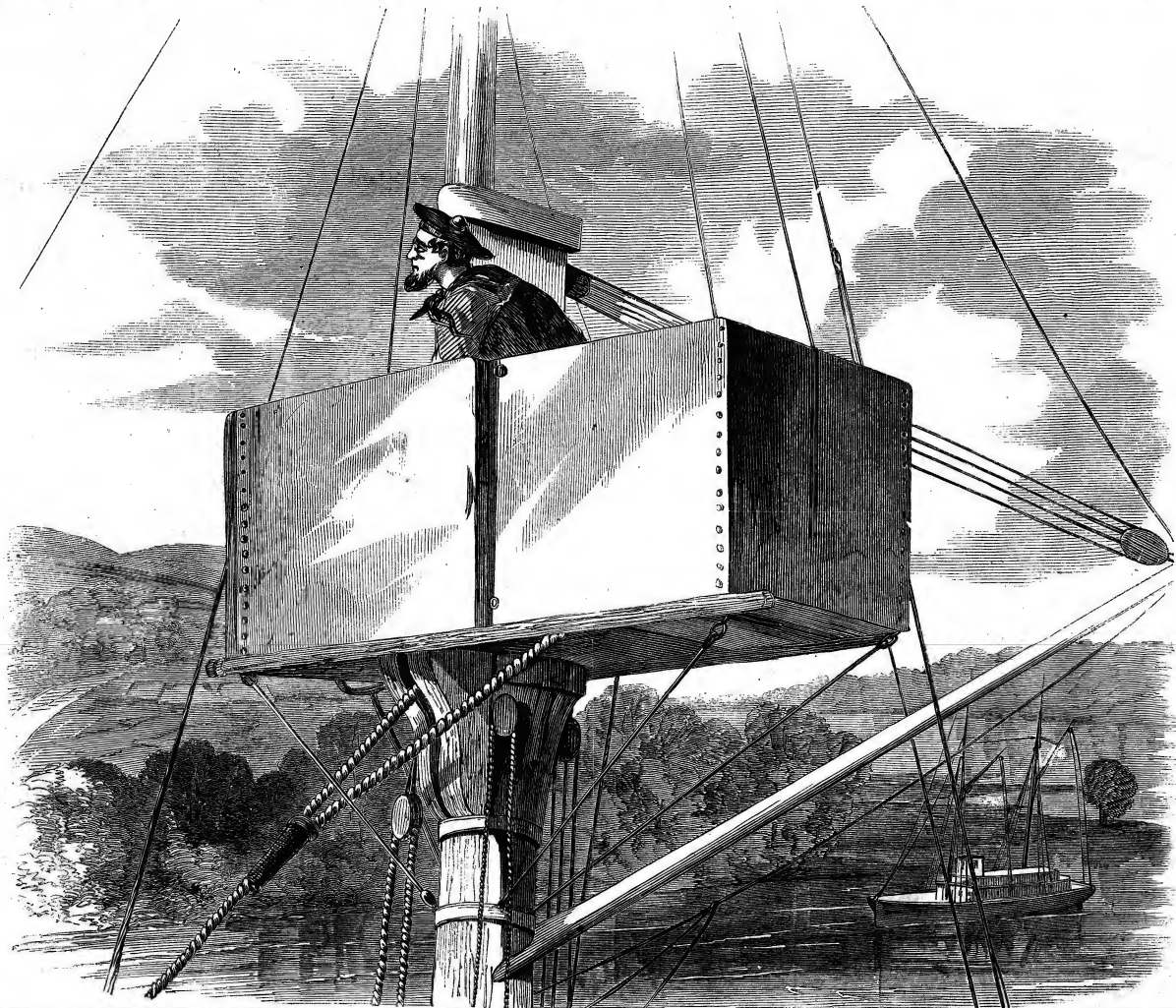
Spasms.

We must not expect too much of an Administration raised to power and organized with a view to partisan interests and to conciliate local influences, when it is called on to grapple with the momentous realities and severe duties devolved on it by a gigantic civil war. We may regret that the President has not the foresight and decision to gather around him men of the time, the creation of the time, comprehending its exigencies, and with the capacity and nerve, we had almost said the audacity, to meet them, as Mr. Chase has met the circumstances of his trying and anomalous position. Yet the President has the power to take the responsibility, as he has freely done, of retaining in place valetudinarians, men of unhappy antecedents and imbecilities. No vote of lack of confidence on the part of the people or of the National Legislature can reach them. But if the President, having the power, and, for reasons satisfactory to himself, chooses to retain in place a Cabinet, in whole or part

objectionable, and which lends no weight to the National cause, we must insist that he shall so control it that it shall not make the nation ridiculous. Its conduct should be consistent, calm and dignified, not spasmodic and changeable. Look at the War Department! One day screeching for men, the next up to its eyes in contract-mongering, as under Cameron; then suddenly cutting off enlistments and disbanding regiments, and next hysterically calling on all the States to send forward their uniformed militia, which on the third day it refuses to receive. And then, after a spell of somnolency, suddenly breaking out in a call for 300,000 men, with the demoralizing stimulus of unprecedented bounties, and next abjuring the system, and evincing the first symptom of intelligence by resort to a draft, coupled with a call for a force which should long ago, and might long ago, under any rational plan of operations, have been brought into the field. Had the administration of the Department been judicious and consistent, there is scarcely a

doubt but that the ranks of the army might have been filled to any standard desirable, and kept there, by voluntary enlistment. Not that we object to a draft, which is the surest, readiest and cheapest, and, therefore, the best way of raising an army; but because the hesitating, vacillating and unsystematic policy that has been pursued has been fruitful in delay, and obstructive and demoralizing in its influences.

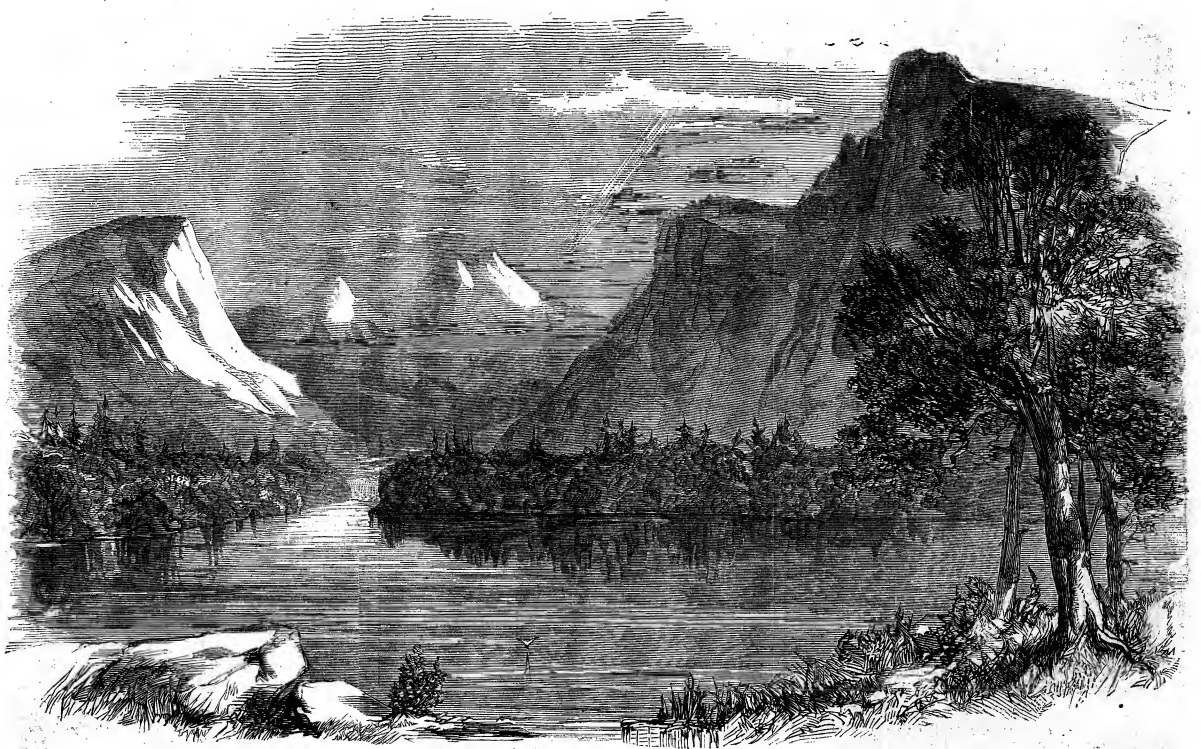
Of this same lack of consistency, dignity and judgment the summary arrest of a newspaper reporter on allegations only amounting to a charge of impudence, coupled with the fulmination of a long and pompous order, is a flagrant example. And now we have an order, without parallel in history for its outrageous violation of the rights of the citizen, and from its nature incapable of enforcement without an utter disarrangement and destruction of all the social and business relations and interests of the country, prohibiting the good people of the United States from leaving the United States, and confining them to their respective



THE MASTHEAD OF A U. S. GUNBOAT, IN THE JAMES RIVER, VA.—THE WATCH ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR ENEMY BATTERIES AND GUNWELLS.—FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST, MR. J. H. SCHILL.
SEE PAGE 84E.

BETTING ON STRATEGY.—Mr. Orpheus C. Kerr, the veracious historian of the Mackerellville brigade, has lately been the witness of a series of victories achieved by that redoubtable body of veterans, which he profoundly remarks will probably "culminate either in

right Admiral Hope, the commander of the English forces, and with whom he had always been on the most friendly terms. Admiral Protet was a brave and distinguished officer, and his knowledge of the enemy's



LAKE IN THE VALLEY OF YO SEMITE, CALIFORNIA.—FROM A SKETCH BY CAPTAIN HYER.

LAKE IN THE VALLEY OF THE YO SEMITE.

AMONG the most wonderful curiosities in California is the celebrated Yo Semite Valley, said to be unmatched for picturesque beauty and sublime grandeur. A succession of wild valleys, deep gorges, forests, winding passes, groves, green swards, peaks and strange rocks, greet the eye by turns. Beautiful waterfalls of the most varied description and of vast depth are also seen. On the south side of the valley, opposite the Yo Semite Fall, stands Pyramid Rock, 3,200 feet high; while further up is Lake Mirror, a beautiful body of water; north and south Dome Mountains, the Canopah and Howansee, Tussay and other falls, with other beautiful vagaries of nature, render the whole region incredibly beautiful. "Here are a thousand nooks and corners and woody dells, every one of which is full of enchanting picturesqueness."

In a few years, when this region shall have become thickly settled, when villages and villas stud the plains and valleys, and roads and bridges add to the charms of the slopes and streams, the Valley of the Yo Semite will be more favorably known to the cosmopolitan traveller than the Vale of Cashmere, or any other far-famed Euro-

pean or Oriental spot. Certain it is that at present no country on the face of the earth can boast such exquisitely lovely, such extraordinary, such sublime or such winningly beautiful scenery as California. Had it been known in earlier times to such races as the Hindoo, the Shemite and the Norse, it would have given the world a new mythology and a new poetry.

SCENE IN CALIFORNIA—SIFTING THE GOLD EARTH.

THE methods of sifting the gold earth, or rather of washing the dross from the ore, are very various, and represent different nationalities. The Chilians, Peruvians and Mexicans still use the primitive instruments of the crowbar and the washbowl, not having advanced a step since the Conquest.

Our Artist, Capt. Hyer, says that, "without meaning any disrespect to the Papal religion, he has always been able to trace the progress of its votaries in that faith by their stagnation in the useful arts of life." This, however, is true of all established religions, it being the nature of dogmatism to paralyze investigation, material

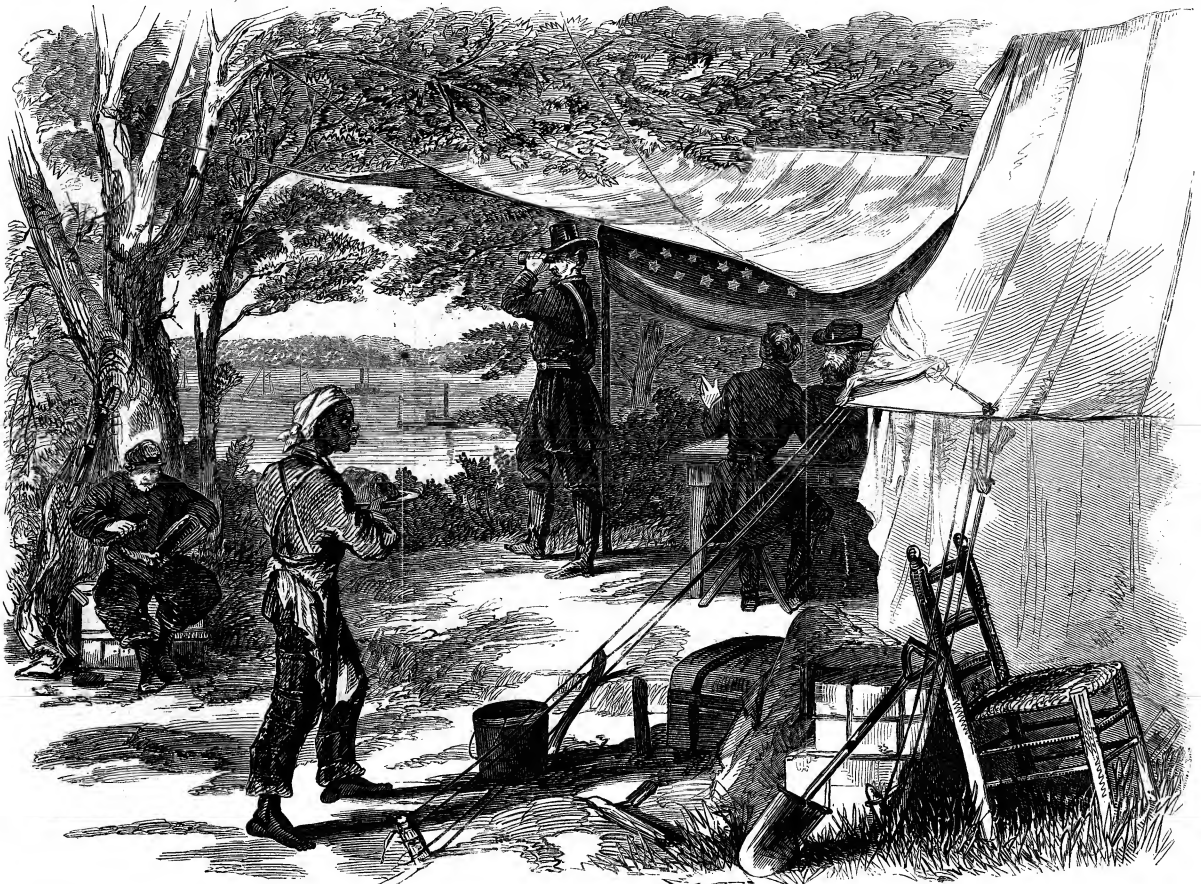
and mental. Many of these Catholic gold-diggers consider themselves equipped for their auriferous campaign if they go armed with a crowbar and a wooden bowl. They "pan and scrape" the crevices of the rocks, and if they succeed in obtaining a small quantity of the shining metal, out comes their whiskey bottle and their guitar, and drinking and music stop their work and reward their success.

Even in California these rude methods are seen more or less modified. "I saw near Sacramento a long trough used called Long Tom, which was very successful, although, of course, not equal to the cradle. It consists of a long trough placed in a slanting position, into the upper end of which a quantity of the gold dirt or quartz ore is placed under a stream of water, which washes away the dirt and leaves the gold as a sediment or deposit.

"In New Granada the gold and silver washing is very rude. The miner builds himself a platform of about eight feet square, of either flat stones or boards, with a rim around it of about a foot in height. The platform is inclining, at the end of which is a pool of water on the ground. On the upper part is the dirt placed, and the miner takes his position near the pool, and pushes, with a large horn spoon, water against the dirt, which, by degrees, will be washed down to the



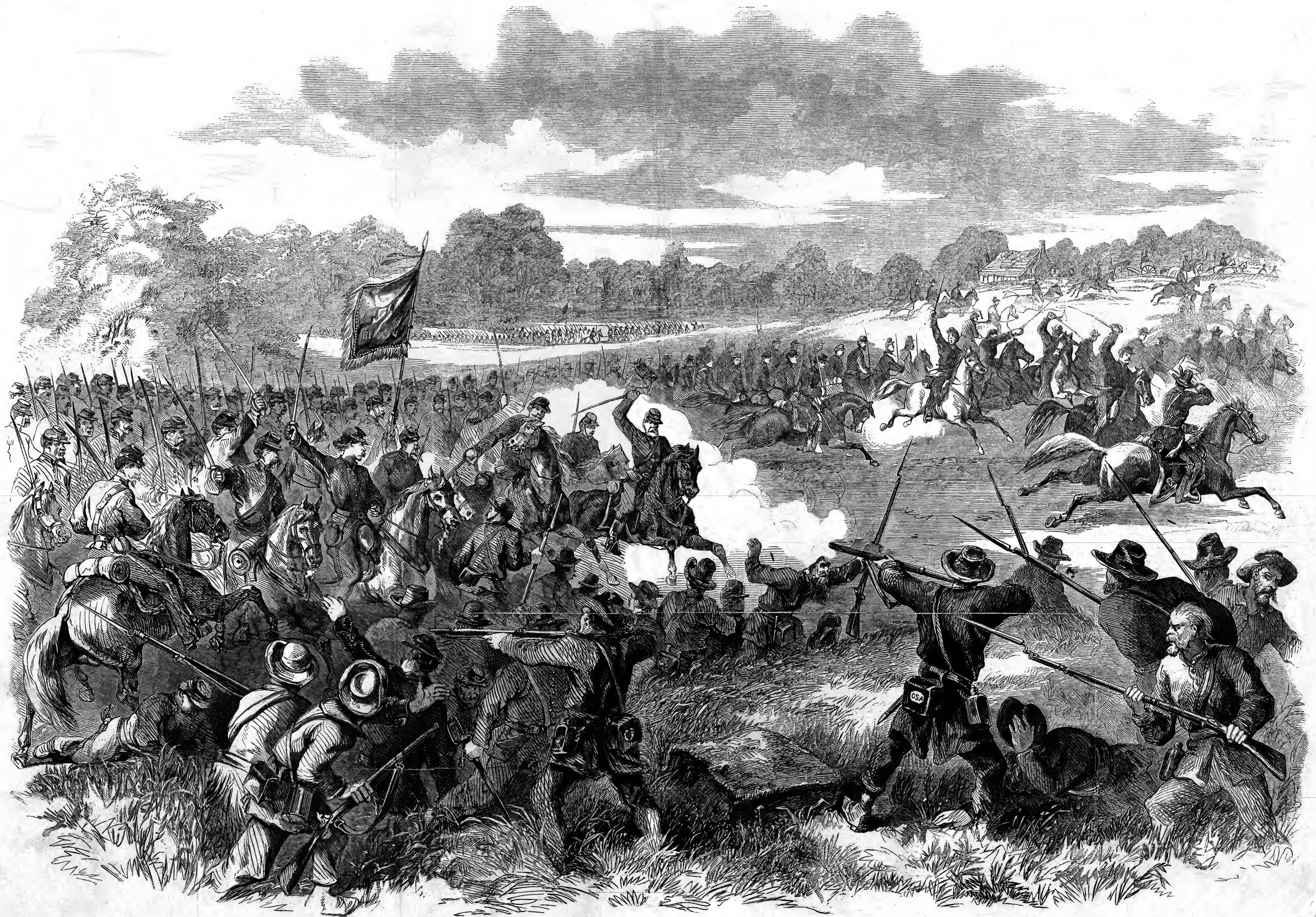
MINERS WASHING THEIR GOLD EARTH THROUGH THE "LONG TOM"—A SCENE NEAR SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA



GUNBOATS ON THE JAMES RIVER, NEAR HARRISON'S LANDING, VA.—SKETCHED FROM THE HEADQUARTERS OF COL. B. C. BUTLER, PROVOST-MARSHAL, BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST, MR. J. H. SCHILL.



WAR IN WESTERN VIRGINIA—REBEL GUERRILLAS WATCHING A WAGON TRAIN GOING THROUGH A PASS IN THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS.—FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST.



OUR ARMY BEFORE RICHMOND—RECONNOISSANCE IN FORCE OF THE NATIONAL TROOPS UNDER GEN. HOOKER, AND DEFEAT OF THE REBELS AT MALVERN HILLS, AUGUST 5TH.—FROM A SKETCH BY AN OFFICER.



BRIGADIER-GENERAL JOHN M. SCHOFIELD.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY BRADY.



BRIGADIER-GENERAL SAMUEL D. STURGIS.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY BRADY.—SEE PAGE 350.

OUR ARMY ON JAMES RIVER, VIRGINIA.

Jack at the Mast-Head.

STRANGE as it may appear, the most apparently exposed positions are not always the most perilous. This will account for the comparative impunity with which balloon ascensions are made for the purpose of reconnaissances. In no case has a shot done any damage, although many have been aimed at the aerial lookouts; due partly by the difficulty of making any near guess at an altitude; even the elevation of a maintop is difficult to hit with any certainty. It is, however, a capital position to take an observation from, and is constantly employed to inform our Generals of the whereabouts of the enemy's masked batteries, wandering guerillas, or the position of the rebel camps. Every gunboat now has a keen-eyed Jack up aloft to spot everything that is suspicious, and as a certainty against rifle shots these "eyries" are now protected with strong sheet iron.

How necessary this vigilance is our sketches on pages 337 and 341 make evident. All along the Southern side of the James River bands of guerillas hide themselves, waiting patiently for the opportunity to fire the assassin's shot. One of their favorable positions has been to

Lay in Wait for the Mailboat.

which, near Port Powhattan "offers an eligible opportunity" for a stray murder, since the river narrows here, and the banks are high and shady. Here for hours have gangs of these cowardly miscreants crouched for the sake of a chance shot. A few days will, however, disperse these desperadoes, since the trees are to be cut down, and the houses on the bluffs will be destroyed.

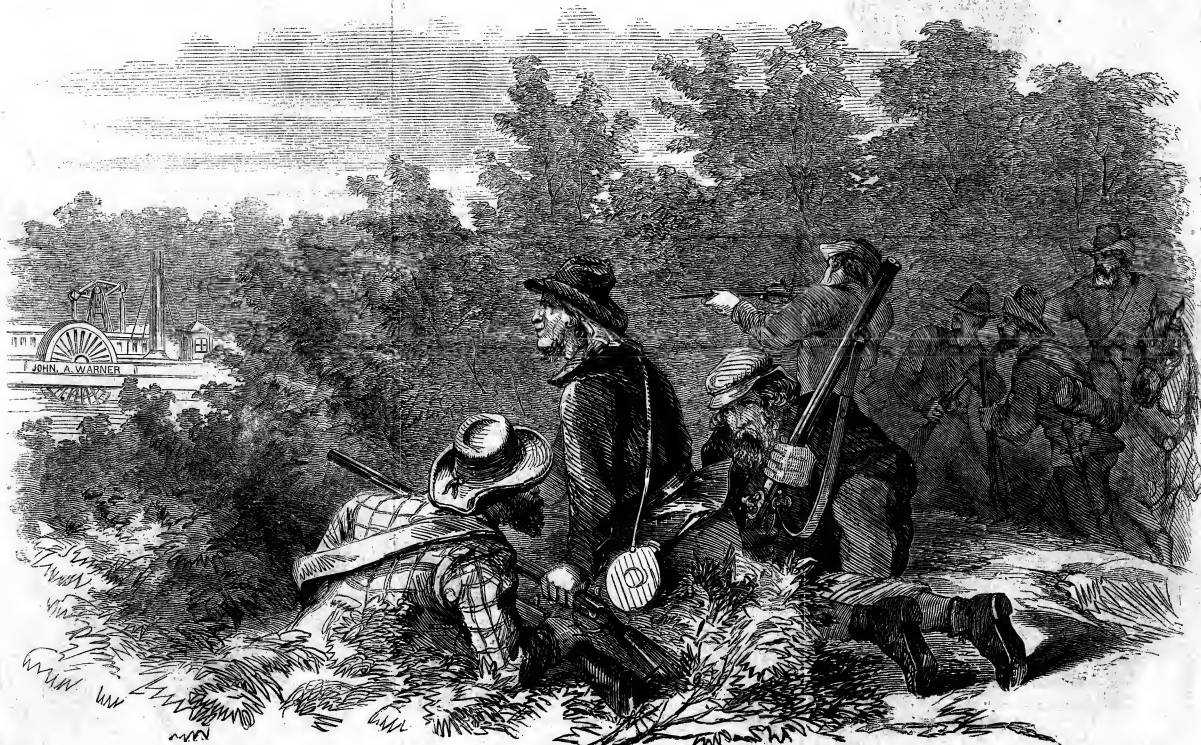
Working on the Fortifications.

Our Artist, Mr. Schell, has given us a sketch of the Penelopean task still pursued by some of our troops near Harrison's Landing,

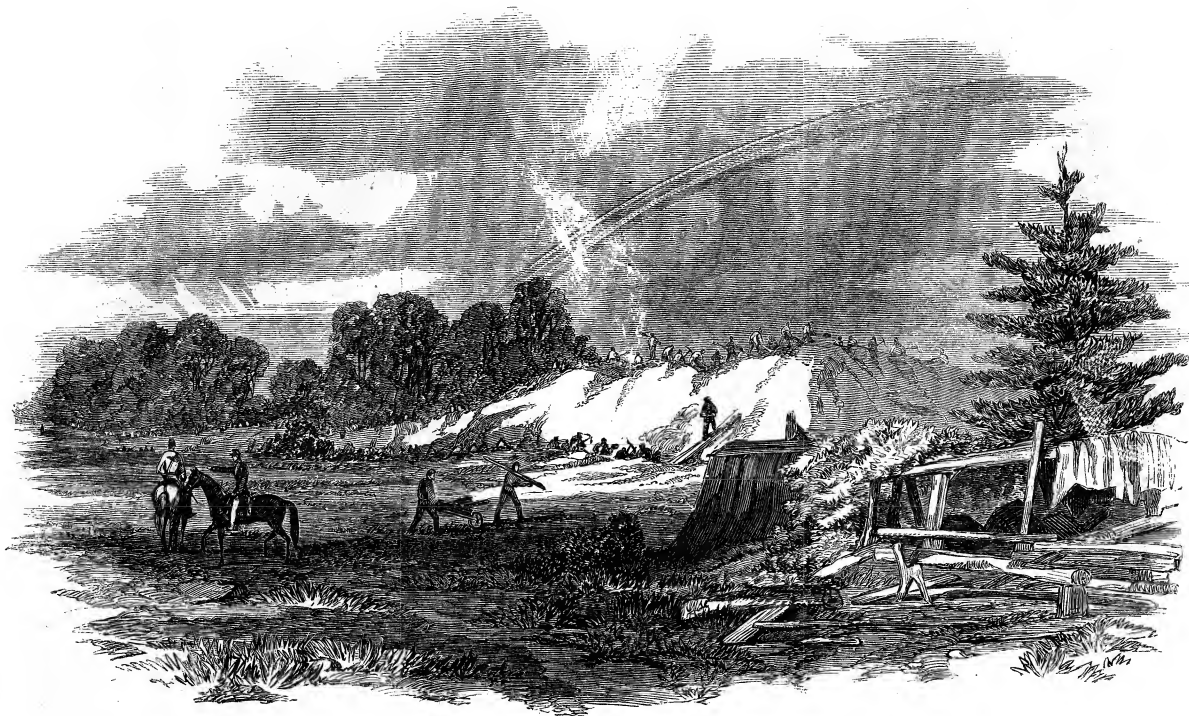
where entrenchments have been thrown up. The time is at hand when the spade will be converted into the sword, and the trowel into the bayonet, and then Richmond will be ours.

Gunboats in the James River.

Our Artist has sent us a most graphic sketch of gunboats at anchor in the river, as seen from Col. Butler's headquarters, which, it will be observed, are upon a high bank of the James river. Few men are more popular and esteemed than the worthy Colonel who fills the highly important post of Provost-Marshal. We gladly avail ourselves of this opportunity of expressing our obligations to him for many substantial services to our Special Artist, Mr. Schell. Col. Butler is one of those very few men who know how to reconcile the duties of their delicate position with the courtesies they owe to that fourth estate and representative of the people, the public press.



REBEL RIFLEMEN ON THE BANKS OF THE JAMES RIVER, NEAR PORT POWHATTAN, VA., PREPARING TO FIRE INTO THE U. S. MAILBOAT.—FROM A SKETCH BY MR. J. H. SOBELL.



FEDERAL TROOPS WORKING ON THE FORTIFICATIONS OF GEN. MCCLELLAN'S CAMP, NEAR HARRISON'S LANDING, JAMES RIVER, VA.—FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST, MR. J. H. SCHELL.

WESTERN VIRGINIA—GUERRILLAS ON THE BLUE RIDGE.

GUERRILLA warfare is brigandage, and more worthy of the dying cause of Neapolitan despotism than any cause an American can fight for. With their usual refinement upon all that is crafty and cruel, the Southerners and Italians have reached depths of villainy denied even to the Mexican and Greek. It is only just now that we learn of the murder of Gen. McCook in an ambulance by rebel guerrillas, while he was being conveyed, utterly prostrated by sickness, in advance of his troops. Righteous and terrible was the vengeance inflicted by his infuriated soldiers. Mr. Edwin Forbes, our Special Artist with Gen. Pope's army, reports many instances of the diabolical activity of this class of robbers on the Blue Ridge,

but he significantly adds that Gen. Pope has a very efficacious remedy for them, which, although not altogether in accordance with Lincoln's rosewater system, is now the favorite prescription. These marauders watch our wagon trains, and if they can kill a teamster or a horse, and now and then capture a wagon—which, however, is very rarely accomplished—they consider themselves as very successful, although the act no more affects the issue of the war than the discharge of a fire-cracker on the 4th of July. The passes of the Blue Ridge mountains were favorite spots until lately with the guerrillas, but the strict rule of Pope and Sigel are fast rendering these regions too dangerous for them. Before this war began no man was aware of what a floating mass of brigandage existed in our Southern and Border States. It will require a very severe and searching system to extirpate these pests of society.

BRIG.-GEN. WILLIS A. GORMAN.

WILLIS A. GORMAN, whose recent hard fighting before Richmond has immortalized his name as a soldier, was born in Kentucky; but removing to Indiana when very young, he has generally been considered as a native of the latter State. Little is known of his earlier years, which were chiefly devoted to farming and politics. At the commencement of the Mexican war he offered his services to the Government, and was appointed a Major of J. H. Lane's regiment of Indiana volunteers. He was in command of the rifle battalion at Buena Vista, where he was wounded. He was then made Colonel of the 4th Indiana regiment, and particularly distinguished himself in the battle of Huamantla. In July, 1848, his regiment was disbanded, and he returned to Indiana, where he re-



BRIGADIER-GENERAL WILLIS A. GORMAN.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY BRADY.



BRIGADIER-GENERAL DARIUS N. COUCH.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY BRADY.—SEE PAGE 350.

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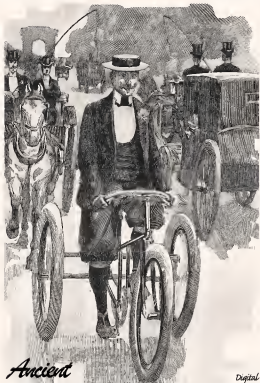
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